## EXHIBIT C

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

## AT TACOMA

DUSTIN DEAN,	)
Plaintiff,	)
vs.	) No. 3:21-cv-05822-MJF
CITY OF TACOMA, TIMOTHY RANKINE, and MASYIH FORD,	) )
Defendants.	)

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Remote Videotaped Deposition Upon Oral Examination

of

MASYIH FORD

\_\_\_\_\_

10:02 a.m.

January 16, 2025

Witness Location: Tacoma, Washington

Karmen Knudson, RPR, CRR, CCR #1935

- Q. Can you give me any kind of estimate of how many total apartments there would be at this apartment complex?
  - A. No. I couldn't do that.
- Q. Could you say more than 20? Less than 20? Any kind of estimate?
  - A. Probably more than 20.
- Q. Thinking back to the night of my client's arrest, do you recall where you parked when you arrived at the apartment complex?
- A. I believe we went up the -- you have to kind of go up kind of a big hill to get there. I think we went up and to the right, so that would have been the north side of the apartment complex.
  - Q. Okay. So on the north side?
- 16 A. Yes.

- Q. Had dispatch given you a location in the police -- in the apartment complex that you were supposed to respond to, or at that time did you just know you were going to the apartment complex and --
- A. Yes. They gave us an address, but it appeared to be inaccurate.
- Q. And why do you say that?
  - A. I'm sorry, sir, you cut out.
  - Q. Oh, I apologize. Always do that if I cut

out. I appreciate you doing that.

I believe your testimony just now was that they gave you an address but it proved to be inaccurate.

A. Yes.

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- Q. Can you explain what you mean by that.
- A. I believe they gave us the wrong address, because we had got to that building and we did not hear anything, a disturbance, coming from that building; however, we could hear a disturbance coming from another building.
- Q. Okay. So at least initially, the dispatch was sending you to a different building, not the building where you ultimately encountered my client?
  - A. That is correct.
- Q. Were you driving that night or was that Officer Rankine driving that night?
  - A. I believe I was driving that night.
- Q. Did you always drive or did you also take turns? How did that work?
- A. We took turns.
  - Q. Okay. So I kind of want you to tell me the story a little bit about what happened that night.
- So at this point, I think we've established you're dispatched to Forest Hill Apartments, it's late at night. Right? I don't think we knew -- established

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an exact time, but it's late at night, you're at Forest Hill Apartments, you park on the north side.
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Kind of walk me through what happens at that point.

A. We parked there. We were listening for a disturbance. We're not hearing anything on the north side.

As we were kind of walking around looking, we can hear a disturbance coming from the south side of the apartment complex.

- Q. So the totally opposite side of the -- side of the apartment complex?
  - A. That is correct.

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- Q. Okay. And at that point, what were you hearing?
- A. I was hearing someone say, "Help," "Get away from me," things like that.
  - Q. Could you tell if it was a male voice or a female voice at that point?
    - A. Sounded like a female voice to me.
  - Q. Were they talking normal, talking loud, or were they screaming at the top of their lungs? How would you describe that?
- A. I would say screaming at the top of their lungs, considering the fact we could hear them from

he called. Right?

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- A. Yes, on the way up the stairs.
- Q. As you got -- this is happening as you all are walking up the stairs together?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. What happens when you get to the top of the stairs?
- A. If I recall, we -- the door was cracked open. We knocked on the door, announced ourselves as police, opened the door all the way so we could see inside the apartment, and we made several announcements for people to come out with their hands up.
- Q. You say the door was cracked open. Can you give me any kind of -- do you mean that you could -- it was open where you could see inside the apartment at all?
- A. No. It was cracked open like probably about that much or so. Like, it was just cracked open.
- Q. Okay.

(Crosstalk)

- A. We could not see inside the apartment through that tiny hole.
- Q. Okay. Okay. But I think -- I can see you and obviously we have a video, but for the purpose of the record, it looked to me like you were showing that

30 maybe the door was open approximately three inches? Is 1 2 that -- is that --A. Roughly, yeah. (Crosstalk) 4 -- your estimate? Okay. 5 Q. Α. Yes. So you could tell the door was unlocked and Ο. 8 is open approximately three inches as you approach it. Right? 10 Α. Yes. 11 Q. Okay. Do you knock on the door? 12 I can't remember which one of us knocked on the door, if it was Officer Rankine or I. 13 14 Ο. How many times did either you or your partner 15 knock on the door? I don't remember. 16 17 Q. Did you make any kind of announcement as 18 you're knocking on the door? Yes. We announced ourselves as Tacoma Police 19 20 numerous times. And when you say "we," do you mean literally 21 Q. 22 both you and Officer Rankine are making the 23 announcement? 24 Α. Yes. 25 Q. How many times did you all announce

- Ο. Could you tell if any lights were on in the apartment? Α. Not that I remember.

  - Did you have any of your weapons out? Ο.
- Yes. Additionally we had our firearm -- I 5 Α. 6 had my firearm out.
  - You had your Glock out? Ο.
    - Α. Yes.

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- Q. Why did you have your Glock out at that point? 10
- 11 Α. Well, I have no idea what I'm walking into. 12 It could be a person armed with a knife, a gun. No clue what's going to be on the other side of that door. 13
- 14 Q. Okay. Did you have a flashlight attachment 15 on your Glock?
- 16 Α. Yes.
- Did Officer Rankine have his firearm out as 17 Ο. well? 18
- 19 Α. I believe so.
- So I want to make sure I have it correct. 20 Ο. 21 As my client, Dustin, is initially walking
- 22 toward you and Officer Rankine, both of you have your
- firearms out and pointed into the apartment? 23
- That is incorrect. We didn't have our 24 Α. 25 firearms pointing into the apartment. They would have

TPD.

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- Q. At the time where you see my client and, from your perspective, it looks like he's taking a fighting stance, how far away is he from you?
  - A. I'd say within five or six feet.
- Q. And both you and Officer Rankine still have your firearms out?
- A. Once I saw his hands were clear, I holstered my weapon.
  - Q. So you could tell he was unarmed; right?
- 11 A. Yes.
  - Q. And at the point he took what you say is a fighting stance, where was he standing?
    - A. He was inside the apartment, approaching us.
- Q. And is the apartment door at this point 100 percent open?
  - A. Yes, or I wouldn't have seen him.
- Q. So the lighting is good enough that you could see him, you can see there's nothing in his hands, you can see that he is making fists. So lighting is sufficient for you to see what's going on at that point; right?
- A. I believe I may have had my flashlight out.
- 24 But, yes, I was able to see his hands.
- 25 Q. Was that a separate flashlight from the one

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attached to your firearm?
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- A. That is correct.
- Q. Okay. So tell me what happens next.
- A. At some point, we say -- I say -- I'm fairly certain I said, "Hey, we're going to detain you so -- until we figure out what's going on."

And then he comes out of the apartment and says, "You guys have no legal right to detain me. Tell me why you're here."

And I say, "Hey, we're here to investigate a possible domestic violence."

- Q. Anything else you recall telling him at that point?
  - A. "Please put your hands behind your back."
- Q. Anything else you recall telling him at that point?
  - A. Not that -- not that I can recall, no.
- Q. Is there anything else that you recall him saying?
  - A. I just remember him saying we didn't have the legal right to be there or to speak with him.
  - Q. Was Officer Rankine also giving any kind of instructions or talking to my client or was it just you?
    - A. I believe it was both of us --
  - Q. Okay.

efforts to detain him.

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- Q. Prior to you officers trying to handcuff Dustin, did he ever charge at you?
  - A. Yes, when he came out of the door.
  - Q. He was running toward you at that point?
- A. No. It was a pretty subtle walk towards.
  - Q. Okay. Did he ever run toward you?
- A. No.
- Q. Was he walking at a normal pace as he approached you?
  - A. I'd say a pretty normal, steady pace, yes.
- Q. And other than having his hands clenched in fists at his side, was he doing anything else that was threatening at that point?
  - A. Yes. Bladed stance and his chin was tucked down, which is, from my training and experience, a fighting -- what we call a fighting stance.
  - Q. He had a bladed stance while he was walking towards you?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. Other than those things described, was he doing anything to you that seemed threatening?
- A. Not following commands.
- Q. Okay. Did he -- did he say any threats to you?

A. No.

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Q. Okay. I think we've gotten to the point where you testified that Officer Rankine is holding, let's say, the upper body -- well, you correct me if I got it right.

Sounds like Officer Rankine is grabbing more upper body, you're grabbing a leg, and you're trying to drag Dustin down to the second landing.

Is that correct? Is that a fair summation of what is happening?

- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. And then what happened?
- A. Eventually we were able to get him down to the landing, and he ran out of energy and allowed us to put his hands behind his back and handcuff him.
- Q. Okay. At any time during the incident, did
  Officer Rankine have an arm around my client's neck?
- A. Yes. That would have been the control hold around his shoulders and neck, yes.
  - Q. Do you know how many times that happened?
  - A. I believe it was one continuous hold.
- Q. So from your perspective, there was one continuous hold where Officer Rankine was putting some pressure on my client's neck?
- 25 ATTORNEY JOLLEY: Object as to form.

47 ATTORNEY YOTTER: Objection to form. 2 Court reporter, did you get both of those 3 objections? 4 Okay. Thank you. 5 Officer Ford, you can go ahead and answer. 6 THE WITNESS: Okay. Can you repeat the question one more time, Α. 8 please? Q. (By Attorney Ericksen) Yeah. Well, I'm just trying to understand what you 10 were saying. I think you just testified that from your 11 12 perspective, there was one -- Officer Rankine was doing 13 one continuous hold. 14 Did I hear that correctly? 15 Α. That is correct. Okay. And using that one continuous hold, 16 17 you believe he was putting pressure on my client's neck; is that correct? 18 ATTORNEY JOLLEY: Form. 19 20 Α. No. ATTORNEY YOTTER: Objection as to form. 21 22 (By Attorney Ericksen) That one continuous Q hold, did Officer Rankine have an arm around my client's 23 neck? 24 25 Α. Yes.

A. Yes.

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- Q. Is that something you mentioned to Sergeant Kitselman, that there should be a video that would show the incident and how it happened?
  - A. Not that I remember.
- Q. Is there a reason why you didn't mention that to him?
- A. Well, we always get video-recorded, so it's a pretty normal part of police work. So I'm used to it.
- Q. Did you or Officer Rankine have body cams
  when you were working that night?
  - A. I wish we did but, no, we did not.
- Q. Was TPD using body cams back in December
- 15 A. No.

2019?

- Q. Would it be fair for me to say that -- you know, obviously we have video for part of the incident, but the parts of the incident that are not on video, would it be fair for me to say that we have to rely on witness testimony to understand what happened?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- Q. And I'm guessing now -- you still work for TPD; correct?
- 24 A. Yes, I do.
  - Q. And you use a body cam now; right?

- understand you're still under oath, just like you were before; right?
  - A. Yes, sir.

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Q. Kind of before we move on to other things, I want to make sure that I understand what force you used on my client.

What I gathered from our conversation is you -- you grabbed his arm -- hands and arms and are trying to handcuff him, and you grabbed a leg and you were helping drag him down the stairs.

Is that correct?

- A. That is correct.
- Q. Other than those two things, did you use any kind of force on Dustin?
  - A. At some point during the altercation, I used a hair hold.
    - Q. And how would you describe the hair hold?
  - A. He had about shoulder-length hair, so I grabbed a handful of it and pushed his head towards the ground to keep him from getting up.
    - Q. Is that something you were trained at TPD?
  - A. That was something that we learned in the academy.
- Q. And what kind of training do you recall getting at the academy about hair holds?

- Q. Okay. Did they scream things like, "Don't hurt him"?
  - A. Probably.

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- Q. During the detention, during the arrest, were there any indications to you that Dustin was having trouble breathing at any point?
- A. No. At no point did I hear him say that he could not breathe.
- Q. I just want to make sure we're communicating effectively.
- Other than him literally saying that, "I'm having" -- you know, "I can't breathe," were there any indications to you at all that he might be having trouble breathing?
- 15 A. No.
- Q. Can you give me any kind of description of the two female witnesses who were there?
- A. I remember one of them was wearing a pink
  bathrobe. And I can't remember -- that would have been
  the older female, who was Vanessa. And I can't remember
  what her daughter was wearing.
- Q. Writing police reports is an important job, part of a police officer's job; right?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. And that's something you were trained to do

- Dustin apparently trying to do a double-leg takedown on you, that is something you have surmised he was trying to do years after the fact --
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. -- after thinking about it more?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. And after talking about it with people more?
- 8 A. Yes.

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- Q. Other than with your attorney, who I don't want to hear anything that you ever have spoken about with, who have you spoken with about this incident?
- A. Officer Rankine and Sergeant Kitselman.
- Q. Other than those two people, have you ever spoken with anyone else about this incident?
- A. Not in detail, no.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. Other than my lawyer, obviously.
- Q. Do you agree with me that if you thought a sexual assault had occurred, that would be an important fact that would be important to put in a police report; right?
  - A. Absolutely.
- Q. Is that something you put in your police report?
- 25 A. No.

- Q. Did you think a sexual assault had occurred?
- A. I didn't know what had occurred because the victim was completely uncooperative.
  - Q. Okay.

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- A. I could guess all day long what happened, but the fact of the matter is I put in my report what I heard. And I could guess a million different reasons why she was screaming that, but the fact of the matter is, she was uncooperative so it would only be a guess.
  - Q. Right.

What was happening between her and Dustin, you would just be speculating as to what was going on; right?

- A. That is correct.
- Q. Did you use your Taser at all during this incident?
- A. Yes, I did pull it out, arm it, and tell both
  Vanessa and her daughter to go back -- to back away from
  us.
- Q. Did you point the Taser at them?
  - A. I don't remember pointing it directly at them but I did point it towards up the stairs, though.
- Q. Did you do a spark test or anything like that?
- 25 A. No.

- Q. Why did -- why did you pull out the Taser?
- A. As an intimidation tool.
  - Q. And what were you trying to do at that point?
- A. To get them to get away from us. It was three against two at that point.

Well, actually, if you would include the dog, it would have been four on two.

- Q. Okay. Did the -- did the dog play any role in this incident?
- A. Yeah. It tried to bite me. I'd say it did bite me in the hand, but it was a tiny Yorkie so it was inconsequential.
- Q. Do you recall, at what point in the incident did that happen?
  - A. While we were fighting on the stairs, I remember it coming down. And then once we got Mr. Dean on the ground on the second floor landing, like it was at my hands like nipping at me. And so --
- 19 Q. Okay.

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- 20 A. -- I just swatted it away and I think it went
  21 back upstairs.
- Q. Right. This is a little 10-, 15-pound dog; right?
- A. Less than that. It's a Yorkie. So I -- five pounds. I don't know.

- Q. Do you recall Officer Rankine ever using bad language during the arrest?
  - A. I believe he said like "Put your effing hands behind your back" or something along the lines of that.
  - Q. In your experience, was that typical for Officer Rankine to use language like that when detaining someone?

ATTORNEY YOTTER: Object as to form.

(Crosstalk)

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THE COURT REPORTER: I didn't hear, Officer Ford. If you could maybe pause a little bit after the question so the objections cannot talk over you.

THE WITNESS: "No."

- Q (By Attorney Ericksen) Is that the only time you ever heard Officer Rankine curse during -- during an arrest?
- A. Not that I really remember. I think that's probably about it.

I mean, Officer Rankine is pretty even keel, so takes a lot to get him upset.

Q. Right.

If a police officer is saying, "Put your fucking hands behind your fucking back right now," does that indicate to you that they're out of control?

ATTORNEY JOLLEY: Object to the form.

A. I'm not sure.

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- Q (By Attorney Ericksen) You just don't remember one way or the other whether he said that or not?
  - A. You have to ask Officer Rankine, because he's the one who said it. So I do not recall if he said that or not.
  - Q. I think you've kind of mentioned this in a general way, but talk with me about what kind of interaction you had with the two female witnesses after Dustin is in handcuffs. Kind of walk me through what happened there.
  - A. I remained with Mr. Dean after he was taken into custody, so I didn't have any interaction with the females.
- Q. Okay. Okay.
  - So if I recall your -- recall testimony earlier about them being uncooperative, that was not them being uncooperative with you, that's something that someone else reported to you?
    - A. Yes, that is correct.
      - Q. Who told you they were being uncooperative?
- A. I believe it was Officer Rankine who told me that.
  - Q. I mean, fair for me to say you don't

- personally know one way or the other how cooperative or not they were?
  - A. That is correct.
  - Q. Would I have it correct that once Dustin is in handcuffs, you stayed with him the rest of the time you were on scene?
  - A. That is correct.
- 8 Q. And you -- Dustin had a visual injury from
  9 this incident; right?
  - A. Yeah. His lips.
- 11 Q. His lip was busted?
- 12 A. I believe so, yes.
- 13 Q. Was there visible blood?
- 14 A. Yes.

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- Q. And I believe your testimony was you called fire to have a unit come and look at him?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- Q. Did you tell Sergeant Kitselman that Dustin had a visible injury?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So you're there at the scene. After you have called fire, from your perspective, what
- 23 happened next?
- A. The fire department responded. Mr. Dean was
- 25 | belligerent with them, didn't want to answer any of

When investigating a domestic violence case, 1 do you ask the alleged victim to provide a written 2 3 statement? 4 Α. That is correct. Do you know if that was done in this case? Q. 6 I'm not sure, but I would assume that they Α. asked. And it was denied. 0. But you didn't --You'd have to ask the officers who spoke with 10 her. 11 Q. Okay. But you didn't, did you? 12 As I said, I stayed with Mr. Dean. So, no, I 13 did not. 14 Ο. Do you know if anyone asked Vanessa's 15 daughter, who was there, to give a written statement? All that was relayed to me was both of them 16 A. 17 were uncooperative. And that's something that was related to you 18 19 by Officer Rankine? 20 Α. Yes. Who went to -- well, the gentleman who let 21 Q. 22 you into the building, who went to him to ask for a written statement? 23 24 Α. I'm not sure.

Q. Is it possible no one did?

A. Possibly, yes.

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Q. When Dustin is walking toward you inside the apartment, you have a flashlight out and you can see inside the apartment.

Do I have that correct?

A. That is correct.

(Mr. Rankine enters)

- Q. (By Attorney Ericksen) Was there anything you saw in the apartment that looked like people had been throwing things against the wall or that some kind of disturbance like that had been happening?
  - A. Not that I could see from that angle, no.
- Q. I think we established this. You were aware that one of the female witnesses was making a video recording with her cell phone. Right?
- 16 A. That is correct.
- Q. Did you ever do anything to try and get a copy of that cell phone video?
- 19 A. No.
  - Q. Are you aware if anyone at TPD ever tried to get a copy of that cell phone video?
  - A. To my knowledge, no.
- Q. That's just not part of TPD's policies and practices?
  - A. It is for cooperative folks. And as I said

have been appropriate.

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- A. It would have depended on what point -- like, there is so many variables for that question. It's kind of a loaded question, to be honest with you.
- Q. So I gather from your response, you think there was a circumstance that would have justified Tasing Dustin?
- A. It would really depend. Neither of us found it reasonable to Tase him, which is why he was not Tased in this incident.
- Q. Because it would not have been reasonable to do so; right?

ATTORNEY YOTTER: Object as to form.

Go ahead and answer.

- A. It would depend.
- Q (By Attorney Ericksen) Would it have been appropriate for officers to strike Dustin during this incident?
- And by that, I mean throwing punches or strikes. So no.
  Which is why neither of us threw any strikes for this
  incident.
- Q. How would you classify Dustin's level of resistance during the incident?
  - A. Active resistance, meaning using his muscles

to prevent us from putting his hands behind his back.

- Q. And when a suspect is doing active resistance, what types of force are justified by TPD policy?
  - A. We can use control holds, pain compliance.
  - Q. Would control holds include neck restraints?
  - A. You specifically -- like lateral vascular neck restraints? Or what do you mean? There's a lot of neck restraints out there.
  - Q. Yeah. I'm trying to use the large umbrella term "neck restraint."

(Crosstalk)

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- Q. Not specifically just an LVNR.
- A. I mean, it would depend.
- Q. So you think there is situations where a suspect's level of resistance is active resistance where it would be appropriate to use a neck restraint on them?
- A. When you say "neck restraint," are you using a -- that's too big -- I need you to be more specific on that.
- 21 Q. You don't understand what a neck restraint 22 is?
- A. I do. I understand that there is about this
  many different types of neck restraints. Like there's
  tons of different types.

117 1 the 00-second mark; right? That's correct. I'll go back to the 15-second mark and I'm going to hit play. We'll watch some more. 4 5 (Playing video) 6 Q. Did you threaten to Tase the female witnesses? Α. Is my Taser even out yet? Q. That wasn't my question. 10 Did you threaten to Tase them? 11 Α. I'm not -- I can't remember what I said. You 12 can play the video; it should tell us. 13 Q. Okay. 14 (Playing video) 15 Α. Get back in the house or you're going to get Tased. 16 17 That's you talking; right? Ο. Sounds like me. 18 Α. Okay. And that's you talking to someone who 19 Q. 20 you know is taking a video of this arrest; right? Clearly, yes. They had a phone in their 21 22 hand. 23 Okay. Now, do you know one way or the other whether you had your Taser out at that point, or were 24 25 you just talking to them?

Masyih Ford - January 16, 2025 119 from 27 seconds. I'm going to play a bit -- play a bit 1 2 more. (Playing video) Stopped at timestamp 46 seconds, for the 4 record. 5 6 A couple seconds before there, is that where 7 you took your Taser out? Did you see that? 8 Α. I believe so, yes. Q. And you took your Taser out to intimidate the two female witnesses? 10 11 The two females that were actively trying to 12 get involved in the fight? Yes, I did. 13 Hitting play again, we're at the 46-second Q. 14 mark. 15 (Playing video) I've stopped the video at the 59-second mark. 16 Q. 17 Here, can you see the Officer Rankine with both of his arms around Dustin's neck? 18 19 It would appear so. 20 If Dustin says that he felt like he was being choked in that moment, do you have any reason to dispute 21 22 that? 23 ATTORNEY JOLLEY: Object to the form. ATTORNEY YOTTER: Object as to form. 24

You'd have to ask your client. I don't know

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Α.

So the video we have, it's three minutes, 43 1 Ο. seconds. We just watched the whole thing. 2 Did you tell Dustin why he was being 4 detained? We told him in the beginning. Α. 6 Okay. So it was sometime before this video Q. started, he was told why he was being detained? 8 Α. Yes. Q. But during this three minutes and 43 seconds 10 where we have video evidence, do you agree with me he 11 was not told why he was being handcuffed and detained? 12 That is correct. I wish she had recorded 13 longer. 14 Ο. And during the video evidence we have, three 15 minutes and 43 seconds, was Dustin told why he was being arrested? 16 17 Α. No. 18 At the very beginning of the deposition, I 19 asked you briefly if you've given other depositions. Do you recall that? 20 21 Α. Yes. 22 Q. How many other depositions have you given, 23 sir? Well, I've been a police officer for seven 24

years now, so that would be kind of hard to tell you,

FURTHER EXAMINATION

BY ATTORNEY ERICKSEN:

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Q. Very briefly, sir.

So what you -- what you did see, what you did observe, is you observed Officer Rankine had two arms around Dustin's neck; correct?

- A. That is correct.
- Q. And when that was happening, you were standing behind Officer Rankine?
  - A. Kneeling behind, I believe.
- Q. From that position, would you be able to see whether or not Officer Rankine was making direct contact with my client's neck?
- A. From that vantage point, no.

15 ATTORNEY ERICKSEN: I think we're probably

16 done. I appreciate it, sir.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you for your time.

18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Should we conclude the

19 deposition?

20 ATTORNEY JOLLEY: No follow-up here. Thank

21 you.

22 ATTORNEY YOTTER: Nothing from the City.

23 ATTORNEY ERICKSEN: We're done.

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. We'll go off the

25 record, then.